

# Fire Services in Lake County Survey

Fire Department: **TAVARES**

## Demographics

What is your jurisdiction's population?	13,500
What source did you use to determine the population?	City of Tavares, FL Official Web Site ( <a href="http://www.tavares.org">www.tavares.org</a> )
What is your coverage area in square miles?	12.04375 sq. miles From Tavares G.I.S. Dept.
How many stations does your jurisdiction have?	Two (2)
What is your ISO rating?	Five (5)
Comments: The City of Tavares has two fire stations. The Station numbers were changed from Station 1 and Station 2 in 2009, in participation with a county-wide fire station numbering system. The new fire station numbers for Tavares are Station 28 (formerly Station 1), and Station 29 (formerly Station 2).  Station 28; 424 E. Alfred Street, Tavares, Florida 32778  Station 29; 1720 Lane Park Cut-Off Road, Tavares, Florida 32778	

## Personnel

What is the total number of personnel in your department? <i>(Including administrative, fire prevention personnel, etc.)</i>	22	
How many hours per year do your shift personnel work?	2,592	
What is your minimum staffing for shift personnel per shift?	5 (3 employees at Station 28) (2 employees at Station 29)	
How many of your personnel are paid paramedics?	Zero (0)	
Breakdown of total personnel by rank. Describe what each rank does.		
Rank	Total Number	Brief Description
Fire Chief	1	Administrative leader of the fire department. A direct report to the City Administrator. Ultimately responsible for all aspects of the fire department, operational and administratively. Develops and administers department budget. Chief fire officer and Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) for fire code issues within the City. Administers Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) for the City.
Captain / Fire Inspector	1	40 hour per week employee. Captain performs annual fire prevention and life safety inspections of all commercial properties as required by city ordinance. In conjunction with the City's Community Development department, conducts inspections for certificate of occupancy (CO) inspections and Business License inspections. Represents the life and fire safety codes in the building process, including performing plan review of construction documents. Provides life and fire safety education to a wide audience, including children and senior



		adults. Teaches C.P.R. and First Aid, to city employees, and public. Certified child car-seat inspector. Assists the Fire Chief with budget preparation.
Administrative Assistant	1	30-hour per week (part-time) employee. Performs clerical functions, processes and files response data and reports. Assists with budget preparation and budget administration. Orders supplies and equipment, processes requests for procurement of goods and services. Responsible for the fire department's part in "H.T.E.", the City's finance department's budget tracking and approval system.
Battalion Chief	3	One Battalion Chief is assigned to each of the 24-hour shifts. The Battalion Chief (B.C.) is the highest seniority person on the 24-shift. B.C.s assist with budget preparation and administration, and ensure adequate shift staffing. B.C.s have a major role in the oversight of day-to-day operations, including acting as incident commander on emergency responses, and as commanding officer responsible for both Tavares fire stations. B.C.s serve the City in a variety of ancillary duties, such as vehicle maintenance, station and physical plant, logistics, personal safety equipment, self-contained breathing apparatus. Lieutenants are direct reports to the Battalion Chief, and the Battalion Chief is a direct report to the Fire Chief.
Lieutenant	6	Two (2) Lieutenants per each 24-hour shift. Lieutenants serve as "company officer" for Tavares Fire Department response vehicles (Engine and Ladder). As the Company Officer, the Lieutenant is in charge of the vehicle and all personnel assigned to that vehicle, during daily operations and on emergency responses. The Lieutenant is part of the response crew, and serves a firefighter as part of the normal duty.
Engineer	6	Two (2) Engineers per each 24-hour shift. Engineers are specifically trained and detailed to drive and operate the City's response vehicles (Fire Engine, Ladder Truck). Engineers are responsible to maneuver the response vehicle to the incident scene, in a safe and efficient manner. The Engineer is responsible to operate the vehicles fire pump using complex calculations to determine friction loss in hose and optimum operating pressures within the pumping system in order to achieve the most effective and efficient water flows. Engineers are responsible for the proper maintenance of all equipment on their respective vehicle, including equipment powered by small engines and/or hydraulics, as well as all hand tools and extraneous equipment.
Firefighter	4	Two (2) firefighters on one 24-hour shift, and one (1) firefighter on each of the other two 24-hour shifts. (The City needs two more firefighters for an optimum staffing of 2 firefighters per 24-hour shift, and those positions are addressed during budget preparation. However, those two firefighter positions have not been funded by City budget.) As part of the firefighting team, firefighters typically handle fire hose lines, including attack and supply lines, and hook hoses to fire hydrants. Firefighters perform forcible entry in a variety of situations and using various tools and techniques. Firefighters render emergency medical care to the sick and injured. Firefighters may ride with ambulance crews to the hospital, depending on the amount of medical care required, and when requested to do so.
<p><b>Comments:</b> Tavares currently has one firefighter position empty. One of our firefighters recently resigned in order to be able to relocate to California with her husband. As of this writing, we are in the process of conducting a hiring assessment aimed at filling that position with a competent prospective employee.</p> <p>All members of Tavares Fire Department are Emergency Medical Technicians (E.M.T.), and Tavares provides emergency medical services at the Basic Life Support (B.L.S.) service level.</p> <p>Tavares has not yet been able to provide Advanced Life Support (A.L.S.) service with Paramedics, although this</p>		



remains to be a high priority for the Department and its personnel. Money to finance the start-up of the paramedic service is the main contributing factor in Tavares not offering A.L.S. service.

### Call for Service Data - Please provide the following information for the calendar year 2010

Total Number of Medical Calls	2,228	
Total Number of Non-Medical Calls	638	
Average Response Time	Overall Department Average – 4 min., 06 sec. Station 28 Average – 3 min., 36 sec. Station 29 Average – 5 min., 09 sec.	
List the services your department offers: <i>Examples include- ALS services, trench rescue, dive team, hazmat, high angle, vehicle extrication, etc.</i>	Basic Life Support (B.L.S.) medical response with Emergency Medical Technicians, Vehicle Extrication, Boat (firefighting, water rescue, de-watering), Crowd Management and First Aid for events, fire and life safety inspections, public education, emergency management, and event support.	
List the <u>major</u> risks in your jurisdictions. <i>If an event occurred, it would considerably tax your resources, or would be considered a major hazard</i>		
Special Events	Medical Facilities	Government/Industrial
Bass Pro Shops Crappie State Qualifying Tournament	Florida Hospital – Waterman and Cancer Center	Lake County Jail
African-American Heritage Festival	Alliance Medical Clinic (Walk-In)	Lake County Judicial Center
Waterman 5K Run	Alliance Urgent Care of Tavares (Walk-In)	Lake County Historical Courthouse
Lake County Motorcycle Safety Fair	Waterman Cove (Assisted Living Facility – ALF)	Lake County Sheriff's office headquarters
Orange Blossom Half-Marathon	Somerset (ALF)	Lake County parking structure
Bassmasters 2011 Elite Series	Sterling House of Tavares (ALF)	Lake County Mosquito Control Facility
Classic Race Boat Association Regatta	Brookside Senior Living (ALF)	Lake County School Board Administrative Headquarters
Sunnyland Antique & Classic Boat Society Show	Lake Point Senior Apartments	Tavares Elementary School
Planes, Trains, & Bar-B-Q, air show, and train festival	The Heritage of Tavares (ALF)	Tavares Middle School
Dragon Boat Festival	Cornerstone Hospice – residence center	Tavares High School
March of Dimes Walk	Cornerstone Hospice – Administrative Office	Lake Technical Center, Institute of Public Safety
Hydro-X Jet Ski Competition		Lake County School Board – Fleet Maintenance facility
4 <sup>th</sup> of July Celebration with Fireworks		Lake County School Board – Facility Maintenance facility
Lake County Green Fair		G & T Conveyor
Light-Up Tavares Christmas Celebration		Blue Rhino – Propane gas tank-filling facility
Tavares High School Homecoming Parade		Tavares City Hall
Harvest Moon		4 Hotels
		Numerous day cares and private schools

		Numerous mobile home parks with "older-model" (1950s-60s-70s) mobile homes
		Numerous churches (some large)
		Numerous historic buildings and homes

## Operations

List total number of Apparatus and Vehicles (Staffed, not staffed, or reserve?)		
Type of Apparatus/Vehicle	Total Number	Staffed, Not Staffed or Reserve
Engine	2	1 staffed with minimum crew of 3 persons. 1 engine is reserve – not staffed.
Ladder	1	1 staffed with minimum crew of 2 persons.
Fire Chief's Expedition	1	Assigned to Fire Chief
Life Safety / Inspection Explorer	1	Assigned to Fire Captain / Fire Inspector
Boat	1	Not normally staffed
Event Cart		Not normally staffed
<b>Comments:</b> T.F.D.'s oldest fire engine is approaching 25 years old. This truck is due to be replaced, but budget has not been sufficient to provide the replacement.		
National Fire Protection Association (N.F.P.A.) Standard 1710 requires a crew of four (4) on each engine and a crew of four (4) on each ladder truck.		
List Interagency Agreements		
Type of Agreement	With which Agency	
Automatic Inter-local	Mt. Dora Fire Department	
Automatic Inter-local	Eustis Fire Department	
Mutual Aid	Lake County and other municipalities through the State of Florida	
Ambulance Co-Locates Tavares Station 29	Lake/Sumter Emergency Medical Services	
Tri-City Regional "In House" Training	Mt. Dora and Eustis Fire Departments	
Dispatch	Lake/Sumter Emergency Medical Services	
Lake County Joint Incident Management Manual	Lake/Sumter Fire Chief's Association	
Multi-tiered Emergency Medical Response (automatic fire service response on E.M.S. calls)	Lake/Sumter Emergency Medical Services	
<b>Comments:</b> Inter-local agreements specify automatic response to certain types of responses within the serviced jurisdictions on the "initial" response (such as "structure fires" and "automatic alarms". Mutual Aid agreements allow for one agency to respond to another agency, only after the resources of the requesting agency have been depleted or exhausted. The State of Florida mandates that all fire agencies interact with each other in mutual aid agreement-type response, whenever requested.		

## Budget - Please provide the following information for the Budget Year 2010/2011

What is the total Fire/Rescue Budget?	\$1,855,630 (f/y 2010/2011)
What percentage of the total jurisdiction budget is Fire/Rescue?	16%
What is budgeted for training? <i>Include fire training courses, college classes, EMS contracted courses, etc.</i>	\$8,000
What are the average total hours of training per person per year? <i>Include in-house training hours as well.</i>	435 hours per person
How is your budget funded? <i>Tax ad valorem, Fire Assessment, LSEMS etc.</i>	Ad Valorem (100 %)



What avenues do you use when purchasing equipment, uniforms, apparatus or any other major purchases? Grants whenever possible. Major purchases over \$1,000, requires three bids. Piggy-backing off other bids is permissible. Uniforms are purchased through Plexus Uniforms in DeLand.

In the next five years, how many stations, additional personnel and apparatus is being planned? Tavares is in the early stages of a long process to relocate and replace the current "down-town" fire station (Station 28) with a new facility, a public-safety facility, incorporating fire, police, and an E.O.C. into a single, new facility. Due to the limited expansion possibilities for Tavares in terms of "city size", additional fire stations will not be required within the next five years. However, more personnel are needed now, but funding for these positions is not available. (At least two firefighter positions and one fire inspector position are needed.)

### **Comment on how the fire service in Lake County can be more cost effective and provide quality service.**

Lake County contains two large areas that can be characterized as "metro-urban" areas. On the north end of the county, a metro-urban area follows Hwy 441 from Mt. Dora, through Eustis and Tavares, to Leesburg. On the south end of the county, another metro-urban area exists along Hwy 50, from the Orange County Line, through Clermont and Groveland, to Mascotte. Each of these municipalities has its own government-based independent fire service agency. Lake County has a fire service provider that is responsible to the "rural" parts of the county. Urban area, or city fire departments are well-versed at providing fire protection to areas of higher-density populations with established water supplies, and the rural fire department is better at protecting vast amounts of undeveloped land with sparse population and no established water supply.

The Fire service in Lake County would become more cost effective and be able to provide better service if the metro-urban departments coordinated efforts in every area of operation in fulfillment of their similar protection "missions", and left the protection of rural areas to the county-operated fire service. Likewise, the county-operated fire service should focus their attention on its unique mission of protecting those rural areas and being able to supply water for firefighting operations in areas where water supply is not provided.

The maximum amount of effectiveness and efficiency is achieved in the municipal / metro-urban area if the municipal agencies are reorganized into single "metro" fire service providers, protecting large areas of high-density city areas, without regard for municipal land boundaries.

While this arrangement has been discussed in various forms and settings through the years, it has been difficult to get the idea a proper hearing. The difficulty has appeared in many different forms, but the huge task of transforming the various individual departments into a single metro department seems to be one of the largest stumbling blocks. Closely associated, however, is the fact that some are concerned that municipalities will forfeit the unique "identity" that comes from each city having its own fire department entity, along with the many questions that arise about funding such a venture.